

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 OIC-02
/169 W

-----062309 101828Z /45

P 101759Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9470
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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USMTN

ACTION STR

STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, MX
SUBJECT: MTN: US-MEXICAN BILATERALS

REF: GENEVA 3406

1. SUMMARY: PERFUNCTORY BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WERE
HELD WITH GOM TEAM (TELLO, SUAREZ) FROM MEXICO CITY ON
MAY 1 AND 4. DESPITE MTN DEL EXPECTATION THAT GOM WOULD
RESPOND ON PRELIMINARY BASPS TO US REQUESTS TELLO
RESTRICTED HIS REMARKS TO CLARIFYING MEXICAN & US REQUESTS
AND US OFFER. END SUMMARY.

2. TELLO NOTED THAT US HAD RESPONDED TO DATE TO ONLY 45
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PERCENT OF MEXICO'S REQUESTS BY TRADE VALUE, THAT MEXICO
CONSIDERED US HAD MADE A "PRELIMINARY OFFER", AND INQUIRED
AS TO WHEN US OFFERS ON REMAINDER OF MEXICAN REQUESTS
COULD BE EXPECTED. US DEL RESPONDED THAT MEXICAN AGRICUL-
TURAL REQUESTS WERE UNDER STUDY IN WASHINGTON, BUT NOTED
THAT US OFFER ALREADY ON TABLE TOTALED \$1.4 BILLION IN
1976 TRADE VALUES TO MEXICO, WHICH SHOULD BE BASIS FOR

MEXICAN OFFER. TELLO CLARIFIED MEXICO REQUEST AS FOLLOWS:

TSUS 132.55 EX-OUT FOR INULINA; 137.8620 EX ASPARAGUS;
TSUS 146.75 INTERESTED IN SUB POSITIONS 25, 30 AND 60 ON
STRAWBERRIES; TSUS 165.35, INTERESTED IN SUB POSITION 40
ONLY. TSUS 168.52 EX-AGUARDIENTE DE CANA AND 182.46 EX-
CHILI SAUCE, I.E. WITH BASE OF PEPPERS, NOT TOMATOES.
TELLO ALSO WAS INTERESTED IN AN EX-OUT FOR TSUS 147.22,
MEXICAN LIMES, AND WILL PROVIDE DESCRIPTION LATER.
TELLO UNDERTOOK TO CLARIFY MEXICAN REQUEST FOR TSUS 130.66,
135.41, 136.92, 140.30, 140.60, 141.76, IN LIGHT OF FACT
THAT MEXICO WAS NOT A SIGNIFICANT SUPPLIER IN 1976 OF
THESE ITEMS. TELLO ALSO INDICATED THAT MEXICO WAS CONSI-
DERING DELETING ALL REQUESTED ITEMS FOR WHICH A SUBSTANTIAL
PORTION OF THE TRADE WAS UNDER SECTION 806.30 OR 807. MTN
DEL RESPONDED AS IT HAD IN PREVIOUS SESSION (SEE PARA 6 OF
REFTEL.)

3. TELLO SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF US AGRICULTURE REQUEST
WITH RESPECT TO BTN 02.01A999. TELLO INDICATED THAT US
INTEREST IN BOVINE ANIMALS WOULD FALL UNDER 02.01A001-002,
PORK IN 02.01A003 AND GOATS AND SHEEPS 02.01A004-005.
HE INDICATED THAT US REQUEST FOR SWEET BREADS WAS MORE
APPROPRIATE US 16.02A999 OBSERVING THAT REQUEST BTN
16.08A001 BE COVERED SEA PORCUPINES ONLY. IN ADDITION,
TELLO SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC US INTERESTS IN
FOLLOWING BASKET CATEGORIES (02.06A999, 08.07A999,
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12.01A999, 16.02A999, 19.02A999, 20.02A999, 20.07A999
(FRUIT NECTARS ONLY). HE OBSERVED THAT MEXICAN AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT WAS HESITANT TO EXAMINE US REQUEST UNLESS
SPECIFIC INTEREST WERE IDENTIFIED. US MTN DEL RESPONDED
THAT REQUESTS WERE FOR ALL PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE
BASKET CATEGORIES BUT THAT IT WOULD SEEK WASHINGTON
CLARIFICATION OF SPECIFIC INTEREST. MTN DEL ALSO REQUESTED
MEXICO TO IDENTIFY PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE PRODUCTS COVERED
BY THESE BASKET CATEGORIES. FINALLY TELLO INDICATED THAT
MEXICAN TARIFF 12.03A001-A999 COVERED 24 TARIFF LINES THUS
US REQUEST FOR 15 TARIFF LINES HAD TO BE IDENTIFIED. TELLO
DID NOT SEEK A CLARIFICATION OF US MARCH 23 LIST.

4. MEXICAN DEL PROVIDED MTN DEL WITH UP DATED MEXICAN
TARIFF (THRU FEB 9, 1978). MTN DEL COMPARISON OF US
REQUESTS TO LICENSING/TARIFF CHANGES MADE BY GOM IN
DEC 1977 - FEB '78 PERIOD BEING HAND CARRIED BY KNEPPER
TO MEXICO CITY.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE INFORMATION THAT TELLO'S TRIP TO GENEVA
HAD BEEN DELAYED TO FULLY EXAMINE US REQUESTS, TELLO SAID
HIS INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT PERMIT HIM TO RESPOND TO US

REQUESTS. TELLO DID, HOWEVER, SPEAK FROM WORK SHEETS COVERING THE NOVEMBER 1 AGRICULTURE REQUEST LIST BUT DID NOT HAVE ANY COMMENTS/QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE MORE RECENT NON-AGRICULTURAL REQUESTS TABLED IN MARCH. MTN DEL BELIEVES THAT RECENT INTERAGENCY INVOLVEMENT IN REVIEWING MEXICO'S MTN POSITIONS HAS SLOWED ITS PREPARATION AND IS UNCERTAIN WHEN NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE JOINED. IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE TO IMPRESS UPON GOM OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH US VIEWS JULY 15 COMPLETION OF THE MTN DURING MAY 11 - 12 MEETINGS OF THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. END COMMENT.

6. DRAFTED BY GRAEF AND KNEPPER. MCDONALD

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